International History Institute

2020

Note: Cathal J. Nolan will be on leave in Spring 2020. More events were therefore scheduled for Fall 2019 than is usual, given audience fatigue. Also, Professor Erik Goldstein has agreed to host several IHI events in Nolan’s absence in the Spring, but most will be scheduled for Fall 2020.

- **“The Paris Peace.”** Visiting Scholar series, Director, Institute of Global History at Charles University. Hosted by Erik Goldstein in behalf of the IHI. Time and title TBA.

- **“George A. Lincoln and the Rise of the Military Intellectual”** Sean Case, Doctoral Candidate, Afghan War veteran, and American Studies & IHI Graduate Student Fellow. He will speak on institutional power in the evolving relationship between the officials, intellectuals, and differing cultures of the Departments of State and Defense.

- **“Thorn in the Eagle's Side: How Six American Presidents Dealt with the Challenges of Charles de Gaulle.”** William Keylor, Emeritus, formerly IHI Director. Professor Keylor speaks on his latest major research project, a sweeping reappraisal of the role of Charles de Gaulle as he interacted with six American presidents, often aggravating them and always complicating their foreign policies.

- **Fall 2020 “Heaven and Earth: Love, War, and the Dream of China’s Destiny”** Dr. Esther Hu, Writing Program and IHI Faculty Fellow. will speak on China's turbulent period from the 1930s to 1960s. First English publication of a memoir chronicling the private life of a historically important military figure from modern Chinese history, General Hu Tsung-nan, the commander of Chiang Kai-shek’s army that captured the Communist Headquarters of Yenan in 1947. Told from the perspective of Dr. Yeh Hsia-Ti, one of Taiwan’s pioneering female intellectuals, Yeh's autobiography describes their romance and secret engagement before the eruption of the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945) and the Chinese Civil War (1945-1949) that immediately followed, a decade of relentless waiting separating them before their marriage. Based on oral testimonies, letters, and other archival sources, the memoir also covers Hu's life after Nationalist defeat and the retreat to Taiwan, after which he served as Commander-in-chief of the Jiangsu and Zhejiang Anti-Communist Military Command and later Strategic Advisor to the President. Translated from the Chinese with an Introduction and epilogue by Yeh’s Asian American granddaughter, Esther Hu, this book offers a little known view into an important period of war and nation-building in modern Chinese history and the history of the Republic of China that remains relevant to our contemporary understanding of the relationship between China, Taiwan, and the United States.

- **Fall 2020 “The Napoleonic Wars: Why Waterloo Didn't Really Matter”** Cathal J. Nolan, IHI, on how Napoleon and France already lost the war a year before Waterloo, which was an anachronism and a tragic waste rather than a “decisive battle,” a mere postscript to the real defeat. That outcome he dates to an immense losing campaign in
Germany in 1813, the first Allied invasion of France in 1814, and the prior history of a generation of attritional war that rendered even the most famous individual battles ultimately indecisive. He argues that even had Napoleon won at Waterloo, five invading Allied armies numbering over 500,000 men already heading toward France would have quickly finished any bid to restore the Empire.


- Other events currently being negotiated with presenters.

2019

- **IHI and National WWII Museum Symposium, Part II (Boston):** “A New Deal for the World?” Focuses on the effects of WWII on the dramatic wartime and postwar shift in global power, especially rapid decline of even the victorious old European empires and their succession by dominant American and Soviet empires. Co-organizers: Cathal J. Nolan, IHI, Robert Citino, Director, Institute for War and Peace Studies, National WWII Museum. Speakers from BU: Andrew David (History), Esther Hu (Writing), June Grasso (CGS), Joshua Shifrinson (Pardee). All IHI Fellows. From National WWII Museum, Director Robert Citino, Jason Dawsey, Research Associate. Funding by WWII Museum, Jet Blue Airlines, IHI & Massachusetts Society for Military History grant to IHI.


- **Screening: “They Shall Not Grow Old”** A screening (with catering) of the colorized WWI film "They Shall Not Grow Old." This documentary explores daily experiences of British soldiers in the Great War. It was directed by Peter Jackson, who did the Lord of the Rings trilogy. After the screening, there was a Q+A session with Professors Andrew David, IHI Fellow, and Professor Cathal Nolan, IHI Executive Director.

- **“The Unfortunate War”** Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Dr. Spyros Katsoulas, of the Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens, spoke on the virtually unknown and oddly named “Unfortunate War” between Greece and Turkey, fought in 1897 over the issue of Crete and other festering disputes.

- **“Premiere Showing (Free to IHI Fellows): 1917”** At the height of the First World War, two British soldiers are given a seemingly impossible mission: cross enemy territory and deliver a message that will stop a deadly attack on hundreds of soldiers. Off campus location: Showplace Icon: Boston. Free tickets for IHI Fellows arranged by IHI.
• “Waiting for Godot (Again)” AKA "Wanting to be Present at the Creation: the Cold War, Presidential Power, and Frustrated Ambition.” Dr. Andrew David, IHI Fellow and Lecturer, History, spoke about Nelson Rockefeller’s outsider yet out-sized influence on the “National Security State,” as he oversaw a significant reform of the DoD and a group that anticipated the NSC staff that became standard during the Kennedy Administration.

• “8th Annual Graduate Student Conference on Advancing Human Progress” Cosponsored by the International History Institute and the Pardee School.

• “The Viêtnam War Reexamined” Michael Kort, IHI Fellow and CGS historian, discussed his provocative revisionist history of the Viêtnam War. Kort argued that the United States should have been able to win militarily, and at a much lower cost than it suffered in defeat. He analyzed the leadership qualities of South Vietnam’s Ngo Dinh Diem; flawed military strategy of ‘graduated response' developed by Robert McNamara; and the real reasons he says caused South Vietnam’s collapse in the face of a massive Northern conventional invasion in 1975. Kort defended the overall U.S. commitment to South Vietnam as consistent with US security interests. Introduced and queried hard by Cathal J. Nolan, who disagreed on almost all levels. Panel chaired by Michael Holm, CGS and IHI Fellow. Cosponsored by the CGS World Affairs Forum & IHI.

• “The Paris Peace Conference of 1919” IHI and Pardee joint symposium on the centenary of the Paris Conference and Treaty of Versailles. Full day symposium by leading scholars in war and peace, diplomacy and international history. Cohosted by IHI Faculty Fellows Erik Goldstein and William Keylor (Emeritus). Funding by the Massachusetts Society for Military History (grant to Goldstein, Keylor, & IHI).

• “Arc of Containment: Britain, the United States, and Anticommunism in Southeast Asia” Dr. Wen-Qing Ngoei, Assistant Professor, History, Nanyang Technological University, spoke about his new book on the Great Power politics of Southeast Asia. Cosponsored, Pardee School and IHI (Diplomacy series, Visiting Lecturer series).

• “The American Revolutionary War: The French Connection” Professor Brendan McConville, History at Boston University, spoke on the relation between the war and the revolution in the founding of the United States. His special emphasis was on ideological elements and the French alliance, especially the deep anti-Catholicism in rebel thinking.

• “Vicksburg: Grant’s Campaign that Broke the Confederacy” Donald Miller, John Henry MacCracken Professor of History Emeritus at Lafayette College, told the story of the longest, most decisive campaign of the Civil War. It opened the Mississippi, split the Confederacy, freed 100,000 slaves, and solidified Grant’s reputation as the Union’s most capable general. Author of ten books, including City of the Century: Chicago, Making of America, and the critically acclaimed Masters of the Air, currently being made into a television series by Tom Hanks. Miller has hosted, co-produced, or served as historical consultant for more than thirty television documentaries and has written for The New York Times, The Washington Post, and other publications. Moderator: Cathal J. Nolan, IHI. Location: The Historic Rotunda at American Ancestors, Boston.

• “The Troubles: 1968-1998” Dr Margaret M. Scull, BA Boston University, PhD King’s College London. Irish Research Council postdoctoral fellow at the Moore Institute, NUI Galway. The Catholic Church and the Northern Ireland ‘Troubles’, 1968-98 Oxford UP 2019. In 2016, she co-organized the ‘Rethinking the 1980/81 Hunger Strikes’ project, which examined the legacy of the strikes for politics and culture. To mark the 20th anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, in 2018 she co-organized ‘Agreement 20’ a two-day symposium at the Irish World Heritage Centre in Manchester. Her current project examines the role of funerals in the Northern Irish ‘Troubles’.

• “The Italo-Ethiopian War and the Saga of John Robinson, 1935-1936” Professor David Mayers presents the early findings of his research-in-progress, in this case on an African American volunteer pilot who fought with Haile Selassie’s air force against the Italian invaders in 1935-1936, in one of the signature conflicts started by the original fascist state prior to WWII. Also, Robinson’s role in political organization in Chicago.

• “Psychology of Russian Political Culture” Professor Anna Geifman, formerly History, Boston University, currently Bar-Ilan University, presented on the “psycho history” of Russian political culture across time, from the Revolutions of 1917 to today. Geifman is Principal Research Associate, Political Studies, Bar Ilan University, Israel.

2018

• “Method to the Madness: The Art and Craft of Historical Inquiry” Roundtable discussion on how to be a historian, with BU Professors Houchang Chehabi, Erik Goldstein, William Keylor, Igor Lukes, Jayita Sarkar. Pardee School and IHI.

• “Hybrid War: Modern War and Complexity” Colonel Erik Rundquist, United States Air Force, Commander, AFIMSC Det 8; Base Defense Commander, Bagram, Air Base, Afghanistan, veteran of two combat jumps and multiple tours, Iraq & Afghanistan, an External IHI Fellow and formerly National Security Fellow at BU. He discussed complexities of warfare from hybrid war to “grey zones” World Affairs Forum & IHI.

• “Once and Future War” Cathal J. Nolan, Executive Director, International History Institute. Discussion of how war is represented in modern popular culture, as compared to how it is recorded in history and how it is waged, won and lost in fact.

• “Project Paperclip: Nazi Scientists and the Space Race” IHI Visiting Scholar series. Professor Brian Crim, Lynchburg College, discussed his book Our Germans: Project Paperclip and the National Security State. This was an extraordinary important caper, bring many Nazi scientists to the United States to work on Cold War military projects. Moat famously, Werner von Braun, Hitler’s rocket scientist and first head of NASA.
“Anti-Submarine Warfare in the Mediterranean, 1914-1918,” Dr. Stefano Marcuzzi, Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Firenze, IHI External Fellow spoke about the robust Italian naval campaign during the Great War, and how this was precursor to the U-boat campaign and ASW tactics of the next world war.

“The Soviet-Israeli War, 1967-1973” Isabella Ginor and Gideon Remez, Associate Fellows, Truman Institute, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Discussed their important new book marking the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War. Recent developments in Syria and elsewhere highlight its timeliness by illustrating the continuity from Soviet to present-day Russian strategy and modus operandi in an ongoing war that has seen indiscriminate bombing, use of chemical weapons against civilians, and 600,000 dead.

2017

“How 1917 Changed the War.” Centenary commemoration, IHI & Center for the Study of Europe. Emmanuelle Cronier, Universite Picardy-Jules Verne, William Keylor IHI commentator; Clementine Nidal-Viquet, Universite Picardy-Jules Verne, Cathal Nolan IHI, commentator. IHI & Pardee and Association Francophonie, Boston University

“Beyond Samosas: Indian Food in Historical Perspective,” Food History series. Benjamin Siegel, History, Boston University. Samples served and explained.

“Walls or Bridges? Restructuring for a Better Tomorrow.” Graduate Student Conference, Pardee School of Global Studies, co-sponsored by IHI


Panel Discussion: "War and Commerce: China and Britain in the Age of Opium," Center for the Study of Asia, co-sponsored by IHI

“Women Warriors: Female Fighters in the Red Army and Navy, 1942-1945,” Alexis Peri, Assistant Professor of History, Boston University

“Shadows of Empire: Legacy of British Imperial Ambitions or Failure of the Ottomans in the Middle East?” Erik Goldstein, History and Pardee & IHI Fellow

“Intelligence in Wartime: Have we Learned Any Lessons?” General David McKiernan, Commander, U.S. Forces Afghanistan, 2008 to 2009; Commander, all Allied ground forces, Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraq, 2003. And Joe Wippl, Pardee & IHI

“Coming of Age in the Empire: Canada in the World Wars, 1914-1945” Dr. Caroline D’Amours, Royal Military College of Canada, Visiting Fellow, IHI

“Human Rights & Violent Internal Conflict” David Cingranelli, Binghampton SUNY. Modern Armenian History series, cosponsored by IHI, History, Political Science, Elie
• “China and Britain: War and Commerce in the Age of Opium” Seng Chon-chuan, Nanjjang Technological University Singapore, Rachel Silberstein, Rhode Island School of Design, Eugenio Menegon, History, Arianne Chernock, History. Cosponsored by Center for the Study of Asia and IHI

2016

• “Walls” An IHI scholarly panel presented as part of the Global Conversations series. The influence of walls in history. Do they work? Why are they built? Zsuzsa Várhelyi, CAS Classics, on Roman walls; June Grasso, CGS, on the Great Wall of China; William Keylor, IHI on the Maginot Line; Igor Lukes, History and Pardee, on the Berlin Wall.

• “Real Samurai: The True Story behind the Masks.” IHI Visiting Scholar series: Stephen Turnbull, Professor of Japanese Studies at Leeds, SOAS, and Akita International University. Samurai armor and swords are among the best known, most spectacular items of military equipment in world history. Their uses appear on painted scrolls, screens and prints, but what was the reality that lay behind this lavish artistic interpretation? Stephen Turnbull removed the grinning mask from the armored warrior to expose an unknown world of samurai warfare where loyalty seemed not to exist, where badly made swords broke in battle, and where victories were determined not by individual combat between honorable opponents but by volleys of bullets from simple farmers. It was a time when castles were nothing more than wooden stockades, when there was no such thing as a ninja and when samurai sold their services to foreign kings.

• “Soldier’s Bread: Red Army Rations 1941-1945” IHI Visiting Scholar series/Food History series: Brandon M. Schechter, Postdoctoral Fellow, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University. Talk on the material and food culture of ordinary Soviet soldiers. Samples of basic Russian foods served.

• “JRR Tolkien’s Ideas of War” Danny Orbach, US-Japan Relations at Harvard University, and Senior Lecturer, East Asian Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. On JRR Tolkien’s strange admixture of heroic and modern views on war, of his mixing the medieval and modern, the ideals of chivalry with brutalities of total war. Topics included the ideal “band of brothers” of the Fellowship of the Ring to the absence of mercy for prisoners, and the absence of female enemy or children that allow all males to be killed by the anointed side with greater audience moral satisfaction and at near genocide levels.

• “The Plots Against Hitler” Professor Danny Orbach, Hebrew University, spoke on his renowned book Valkyrie. The story of noble, ingenious, brave and doomed efforts to kill Hitler, of secret midnight meetings, crises of personal conscience, fierce internal debates among old friends about whether to kill Hitler or arrest and try him, and plans that never came to be to dismantle Nazism and restore civil society in Germany.
• “Shifting Global Systems?” Security, Politics, Environment, Communications, Religion, Finance & Trade. IHI and Pardee School cosponsored graduate Student conference; also sponsored by BU Center for Europe, African Studies Center, Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations.

• “The Diplomacy of Dean Acheson” IHI Visiting Scholar series, Michael Hopkins, Senior Lecturer, University of Liverpool. Talk on a key architect of American Cold War foreign policy and diplomacy.

2015

• “Peace & Security, Advancing Human Progress” Global Development Graduate Student Conference, co-sponsored with Pardee School and Latin American Studies

• “Global Conversations: Nuclear Proliferation.” IHI and Boston University Global Programs co-sponsored panel on the pressing international issue of nuclear proliferation. William Keylor (IHI), Cathal Nolan IHI, Betty Anderson (History), & Manjori Chatergee Miller, Pardee School. Following a survey of proliferation and non-proliferation efforts during the Cold War and in international history since 1945, the discussion ranged over the Indian subcontinent, the South Asian geopolitical theater, and modern Middle East.

• “Canakkale (Gallipoli): The Road to Peace out of War.” IHI commemoration of the centenary of the terrible battle that set the course of 20th century history for Australia, New Zealand, and most of all, for the Ottoman Empire and its successor state, Turkey.

Chaired by Cathal Nolan, IHI at Boston University. Panelists: Kahraman Sakul, Istanbul Sehir Univerity, Deborah Breen, Boston University, Hon. Simon Leeming, New Zealand Honorary Consul. Funded by Consulate of Turkey, Consulate of New Zealand, Australia-America Society. Audience participants included the former Foreign Minister of Turkey, the consuls of all three nations, and over 75 citizens from all three nations.

Collaborative display of sixteen enlarged photographs from the war archives of Turkey and Australia was arranged between by the Australian and Turkish Governments. Photo exhibition was set up in The Castle on BSR.

• “Science Goes to War: Technology, Triplanes & War Glamor” Evan Hadingham Senior Science Editor, NOVA, author of The Fighting Triplanes. Talk focused on the impact of evolving technology and strategy on the air war vs. the cult of glamorizing individual fighter aces in the wartime propaganda on all sides in WWI.

• “Can We Live with a Nuclear Iran?” IHI Panel Discussion. Professor James Walsh Security Studies Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Professor Richard Landes, History, Boston University; Professor Houchang Chehabi, International Relations, Boston University. Half-day event.

• “Where is the Middle East Going? An Israeli Perspective” Prof. Efraim Inbar, Israel
Institute Visiting Professor, Director, The Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel. The strategic situation in the Middle East, including threat assessment of ISIS and Iran, the direction of Turkish foreign policy, trends, opportunities, and risks in cross-regional strategic relationships.

- “Was the Armenian Genocide a Model for the Holocaust?” An IHI Faculty Fellow Lecture. Simon Payaslian, Charles K. and Elisabeth M. Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature

2014

- “The Legacy of the Cold War: Perspectives on Security, Cooperation, and Conflict” IHI author book launch, in cooperation with Parallel History Project and Boston College. An IHI Visiting Scholar Panel Discussion with Professor William R. Keylor, Boston University, Vojtech Mastny, Parallel History Project, Huang Yuxing, Boston College

- “France and the Origins of the United Nations, 1944” An IHI Visiting Scholar Presentation: Professor Andrew Williams, School of International Relations, University of St. Andrews, Author of France, Britain and the United States in the Twentieth Century 1900-1940: A Reappraisal (2014) and editor of the International History Review

- “Six Chinese Historians in Search of Mao” IHI brought to Boston University six official (state) historians of the Chinese Communist Party, from the State Archives Administration, People's Republic of China. They interacted with BU and Harvard scholars and graduate students in East Asian Studies, History, International Relations, and Political Science. The conversation was uniquely open, wide-ranging and no-holds-barred, especially given the official status of the visiting delegation.

The visiting delegation comprised Dr. Huo Haidan, Director, Senior Editor, First Research Department; Li Xiangqian, Counsel, Researcher, Third Research Department; Li Rong, Deputy Director, Researcher, First Research Department; and Qin Yi, Associate Counsel, Deputy-Researcher, First Research Department, Party History Research Centre.

Also participating Cheng Xuefei, Consultant, Education Bureau of the Propaganda Office, Propaganda Department of the Communist Party of China; and Li Lina, Deputy Division Chief, Party History Editing and Research Office, Department of Policy and Regulation, State Archives Administration of the People’s Republic of China.

- “Submerging U.S. Strategy: Responding to Russia in Ukraine and Europe” An IHI Visiting Scholar Panel Discussion. Professors Tom Nichols and John Schindler, National Security Affairs, Naval War College

- “Dead Faces: War and Terrorism in Fantasy Literature” Danny Orbach, IHI Fellow and Harvard University, on paradigms of modern war and cultural change as represented in fantasy literature. He considered strategic ideas underlying some of the most famous fantasy works of the 20th Century, from The Lord of the Rings through the Soviet novels...
Night Watch, Sergei Lukenyenko's five dark fantasy allegories to the Cold War.

- “The Arab Spring and Regional Turmoil: An Israeli Perspective.” Professor Efraim Inbar, Director, Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University, Israel. Expert authority on the Arab-Israeli conflict and strategic developments in the Mideast, Israeli strategic doctrine, public opinion on national security issues, Israeli-Palestinian and Israel-Turkey relations.

- “Remaking Identities God, Nation, and Race in World History” Overarching seminar on efforts to transplant and expand new identities that generated long periods of stability as well as explosive violence that remade the human landscape around the world.